United Nations A/53/608/Add.4

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 December 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 93 (d)

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 93 (see A/53/608, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 26th, 38th and 42nd meetings, on 28 October, 12 November and 1 December 1998. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/53/SR.26, 38 and 42).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.14

2. At the 26th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on behalf of *Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana*, the *Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Fiji, Mauritius*, the *Federated States of Micronesia, Mongolia, Senegal* and *the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Globalization and liberalization of the world economy — prevention of the marginalization of weak or vulnerable economies" (A/C.2/53/L.14), which read:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/53/608 and Add.1–7.

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"*The General Assembly*,

"*Affirming* the importance of the statement by the Secretary-General in his report on the work of the Organization that the task ahead 'is not to try to reverse globalization — an effort which, in any case, would be futile. The task is to harness its positive potential while managing its adverse effects. Strengthening multilateral institutions can help accomplish that task',

"*Affirming also* the need to fully integrate all countries into the world economy,

"*Concerned* about the negative consequences of globalization and liberalization of the global economy on the economies of the developing countries, in particular in Africa, and on small island developing States, least developed countries, land-locked developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

"*Considering* the urgent need to prevent further marginalization of the weak or vulnerable economies of developing countries and of countries with economies in transition and to help these economies to benefit from the globalization and liberalization of the world economy,

"*Aware* that sound domestic macroeconomic and structural policies are primary elements for taking advantage of the globalization and liberalization of the world economy,

"*Recognizing, inter alia*, the importance of regional economic integration, the creation of new opportunities for expanding trade and investment, improved market access for exports, retaining special trading arrangements/preferences and a durable solution to the external debt and debt-servicing problems,

"1. *Calls upon* Member States to take, individually and collectively, the relevant measures and policies to prevent the marginalization of the weak or vulnerable economies of developing countries and of countries with economies in transition, and to help them to benefit from globalization and liberalization with a view to their full integration into the world economy;

"2. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, together with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions, to give special attention to the subject of the present resolution in the relevant reports mandated for the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly;

"3. *Requests* all States and relevant international organizations to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the subject;

"4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session an item entitled 'Prevention of the marginalization of the weak or vulnerable economies of developing countries and of countries with economies in transition in the globalization and liberalization of the world economy'."

3. At the 42nd meeting, on 1 December, the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia informed the Committee that draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.14 had been withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.36 and A/C.2/53/L.49

4. At the 38th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of *Indonesia*, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and *China*, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership" (A/C.2/53/L.36), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 48/165 of 21 December 1993, 49/95 of 19 December 1994, 50/122 of 20 December 1995, 51/174 of 16 December 1996, and 52/186 of 18 December 1997,

"*Noting* the adoption of the Agenda for Development and the relevant provision on its follow-up and implementation, and the need to give impetus to international economic cooperation for development so as to effectively follow up on the Agenda,

"*Expressing* satisfaction on the holding of the first high-level dialogue on the theme of social and economic impacts of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications, held on 17 and 18 September 1998,

"1. *Reaffirms* the continued need to strengthen constructive dialogue and genuine partnership in order to promote further international economic cooperation for development;

"2. *Also reaffirms* that such a dialogue should be conducted in response to the imperatives of mutual interests and benefits, genuine interdependence, shared responsibility and the partnership for achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development as well as for improving the international economic environment that is conducive to such development, and that the United Nations system should reinforce its activities in order to facilitate such a dialogue;

"3. *Decides* to hold biennially a high-level renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership of the General Assembly to provide impetus for the promotion of international economic cooperation for development and also decides that the theme, timing, duration, outcome and the modalities of the second high-level dialogue will be decided through the intergovernmental process at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly;

"4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close consultations with Governments, all relevant parts of the United Nations system and relevant intergovernmental organizations, to propose themes for the promotion of international economic cooperation for development for the second high-level dialogue for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

"5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the appropriate item, the sub-item entitled 'Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership'."

5. At the 42nd meeting, on 1 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Burak **Özügergin** (Turkey), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership" (A/C.2/53/L.49), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.36, and orally corrected it by replacing the words "a panel" by the word "panels" in the third preambular paragraph.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.49, as orally corrected (see para. 9).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.49, draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.36 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

C. Draft decision

8. At its 42nd meeting, on 1 December, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of a number of documents before it under the item (see para. 10).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/165 of 21 December 1993, 49/95 of 19 December 1994, 50/122 of 20 December 1995, 51/174 of 16 December 1996 and 52/186 of 18 December 1997,

Recalling also the adoption of the Agenda for Development[1] and the relevant provision on its follow-up and implementation, and the need to give impetus to international economic cooperation for development so as to effectively follow up the Agenda,

Expressing satisfaction with the holding on 17 and 18 September 1998 of the first high-level dialogue of the General Assembly on the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications, including the use of panels, which were not part of the formal proceedings, and round-table discussions which promoted interactive dialogue,

1. *Reaffirms* the continuing need to strengthen constructive dialogue and genuine partnership in order to promote further international economic cooperation for development;

2. *Stresses* that such dialogue should be conducted in response to the imperatives of mutual interests and benefits, genuine interdependence, shared responsibility and the partnership for achieving development as well as for improving the international economic environment so that it is conducive to such development, and that the United Nations system should reinforce its activities in order to facilitate such a dialogue in accordance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

3. *Decides* to hold biennially a high-level renewal of the dialogue of the General Assembly on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership, to provide impetus for the promotion of international economic cooperation for development;

[1] Resolution 51/240.

4. *Also decides* that, building on the experience of the high-level dialogue held on 17 and 18 September 1998, the theme and the modalities of the second high-level dialogue will be decided through the intergovernmental process at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close consultation with Governments, all relevant parts of the United Nations system and relevant intergovernmental organizations, to propose themes for the promotion of international economic cooperation for development for the second high-level dialogue for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the appropriate item, the sub-item entitled "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership".

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10. The Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Documents relating to renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

The General Assembly takes note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the utilization of the development dividend;[2]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on communication for development programmes in the United Nations system;[3]

(c) Summary by the President of the General Assembly of the high-level dialogue on the theme of the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications;[4]

(d) Letter dated 9 March 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Japan and Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Co-Chairmen's summary report on the First Preparatory Committee Meeting for the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development.[5]

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[2] A/53/374.

[3] A/53/296.

[4] A/53/529.

[5] A/53/85.